

13

3. The method of claim 2 wherein step c) further comprises the step of modulating the characteristic color within a reproduction of the document image to degrade the reproduction.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein modulation of the characteristic color is controlled by at least one of a square wave, a ramp, a sawtooth, and a sinusoidal modulation function.

5. The method of claim 2 wherein step c) further comprises the step of substituting an alternative color for the characteristic color within a reproduction of the document image to degrade the reproduction.

6. The method of claim 2 wherein step c) further comprises the step of degrading a halftoning of the reproduction.

7. The method of claim 2 wherein the reproduction is mis-registered during a reproduction process.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the lookup table provides a colorspace conversion between RGB and CMYK colorspace.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein step b) further comprises the steps of:

i) detecting a first (i_{min}) and a last (i_{max}) occurrence of a selected characteristic color along each of a plurality of lines through the image; and

ii) counting a number of consecutive lines, C_L for which $\{i_{max}-i_{min}\}$ exceeds a size threshold, T.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:

iii) confirming a counterfeit attempt, if $C_L > L$ and

$$\frac{N_i}{i_{max} - i_{min}} > S$$

for each line, wherein L is a pre-determined line count threshold, wherein N_i is a number of transitions between foreground and background colors along a selected line, i, wherein S is a color transition frequency threshold.

11. A method of deterring counterfeit reproductions of an document image, comprising the steps of:

a) performing a colorspace conversion from a first colorspace to a second colorspace for each pixel of the document image in accordance with a lookup table;

b) counting each lookup of any characteristic color within the image, wherein each characteristic color is within a pre-determined range of the lookup table; and

c) performing a color transition frequency test to confirm a counterfeit attempt, if a count for at least one characteristic color exceeds a threshold.

14

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the first colorspace is RGB, wherein the second colorspace is CMYK.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein step c) further comprises the steps of:

i) detecting a first (i_{min}) and a last (i_{max}) occurrence of a selected characteristic color along each of a plurality of lines across the image; and

ii) counting a number of consecutive lines, C_L for which $\{i_{max}-i_{min}\}$ exceeds a size threshold, T.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of:

iii) verifying a counterfeit attempt, if $C_L > L$ and

$$\frac{N_i}{i_{max} - i_{min}} > S$$

for each line, wherein L is a pre-determined line count threshold, wherein N_i is a number of transitions between foreground and background colors along a selected line, i, wherein S is a color transition frequency threshold.

15. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of:

d) degrading a reproduction of the document image, if the counterfeit attempt is confirmed.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein step d) further comprises the step of modulating at least one characteristic color within a reproduction of the document image.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein modulation of the characteristic color is controlled by at least one of a square wave, a ramp, a sawtooth, and a sinusoidal modulation function.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein step d) further comprises the step of substituting an alternative color for at least one characteristic color within a reproduction of the document image.

19. The method of claim 15 wherein step d) further comprises the step of degrading a halftoning of the reproduction.

20. The method of claim 15 wherein step d) further comprises the step of mis-registering the reproduction during reproduction.

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